

Office of Environmental Information

FY 2003 Environmental Justice Progress Report

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Office of Environmental Information's (OEI) FY 2003 Environmental Justice Progress Report details the activities that supported OEI's long-term goal of integrating environmental justice into its business practices. The Progress Report illustrates OEI's commitment to implementing Administrator Whitman's, Environmental Justice Memorandum, dated August 9, 2001, which states:

... [EPA] has a firm commitment to the issue of environmental justice and its integration into all programs, policies, and activities, consistent with existing environmental laws and their implementing regulations.

The Progress Report is based on the goals established in the OEI's FY 2003 Environmental Justice Plan. OEI's FY 2003 plan is one component of an overall Environmental Justice Action Plan for EPA, and conforms to the Agency template and guidelines for Environmental Justice Action Plans used Agency-wide.

OEI supports the Agency's mission of protecting public health and the environment by integrating high quality environmental information to make it useful for informing decisions, improving information analyses, documenting performance, and measuring success. The office, in consultation with its many different internal and external stakeholders and partners, establishes and oversees information policies and procedures to address the concerns of local, state, and federal government; tribes; the regulated community; interest groups; the general public; and EPA managers and staff. OEI's mission is cross-cutting in nature. That is, it supports virtually all of the Agency's programs through enterprise-wide efforts to improve the way that EPA collects, manages, stores and utilizes environmental information, manages its information technology architecture and makes information technology investments. Consequently, OEI's Progress Report illustrates how we ensured that OEI products address the information and analytical needs of the environmental justice components of Agency programs. During FY 2003 OEI made significant progress in being able to provide EJ awareness in the customization of an EJ awareness to managers and staff, and supporting the information aspect of our Environmental Justice Program and activities throughout the Agency.

2. OEI's Environmental Justice Accomplishments and Activities

In FY 2003 OEI launched its formal Environmental Justice Plan for purposes of guiding its initial environmental justice activities. OEI's plan adopted the following goals:

GOAL #1: Ensure via education and training that all OEI managers and staff understand the concept of environmental justice and have the tools they need to integrate environmental justice into their day-to-day responsibilities.

GOAL #2: Work with the Agency network of Headquarters and Regional Environmental Justice Coordinators and the Office of Environmental Justice to promote the use and further development of electronic tools and information services to support the Agency's Environmental Justice priorities.

Within this goal framework, during FY03, OEI accomplished the following activities:

- □ Developed Environmental Justice training curriculum for OEI staff and managers; and
- □ Developed a cutting-edge Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool to conduct environmental justice assessment. This Web-based technology provides access to social, economic, health, and environmental information through the use of geographic layers of information of our nation to address potential or existing environmental justice concerns. It contains numerous information layers that may be utilized by program offices, Regions, and the US public to conduct environmental justice assessments. The tool has the capability to highlight a study area or specific location around a particular EPA-regulated facility. This tool was made available on June 2003 on the EPA Intranet and on August 2003 in the Internet on EPA's website. It can be found at www.epa.gov/enviro/ej.

The two activities have established a strong foundation for an expanded Environmental Justice program in OEI for future years.

3. OEI's Environmental Justice Activities Matrix for FY 2003

The following matrix delineates the specific activities OEI planned and performed in pursuing its Environmental Justice goals for FY 2003. The matrix also identifies resources that OEI planned to make available to support these activities, and describes performance standards utilized to measure the success achieved by OEI's Environmental Justice goals during the fiscal year.

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES MATRIX
FY 2003**

GOAL #1: Ensure via education and training that all OEI managers and staff understand the concept of environmental justice and have the tools they need to integrate environmental justice into their day-to-day responsibilities.

Activity	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact
1 Develop training in consultation with OEJ	1. Ongoing/ due 09/03	1. Completed course curriculum 09/30/03	1. \$10K/up to .15 FTE	Lorena Romero-Cedeño 202/566-0978

GOAL #2: Work with the Agency network of Headquarters and Regional Environmental Justice Coordinators and the Office of Environmental Justice to promote the use and further development of electronic tools and information services in support of Agency Environmental Justice priorities.

Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact
1. Develop electronic tools and information sources that may be utilized by program offices and Regions to conduct environmental justice assessments a. Continue participation on EJ-GIS Work Group b. Complete analytical tool to support EJ preliminary assessments	1a. Ongoing 1b. 09/03	1a.GOAL: Identify 10 Core indicators for EJ Assessment Tool - Measure: Number of indicators identified 1b.By end of FY03: Integrate assessment tool with 2 other business processes; integrate existing tool into ARCIMS	1a. Up to .25 FTE 1b. Up to .25 FTE	Dave Wolf 202/566-0690